

The Book of John: Christ or Criminal?

By: Pastor Timothy Corder

Vs 11 now at the feast the Jews, you know the ones he has been avoiding for the past six months are still looking for him, "where is that man" John records that they were saying. JC has rejected his brothers advice and has not entered Judea with great public display. The Jewish leaders are very antagonistic shown in their comment Where is that man?

Vs 12 the Crowd- they differ from the Jews (which are the leaders), the crowd are mixed in their reviews: for some say, He is a good man. and others are saying he deceives the people, he will lead them away from God. Deuteronomy 13 If a prophet, or one who foretells by dreams, appears among you and announces to you a sign or wonder, 2 and if the sign or wonder spoken of takes place, and the prophet says, "Let us follow other gods" (gods you have not known) "and let us worship them," 3 you must not listen to the words of that prophet or dreamer. The Lord your God is testing you to find out whether you love him with all your heart and with all your soul. 4 It is the Lord your God you must follow, and him you must revere. Keep his commands and obey him; serve him and hold fast to him. 5 That prophet or dreamer must be put to death for inciting rebellion against the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt and redeemed you from the land of slavery. That prophet or dreamer tried to turn you from the way the Lord your God commanded you to follow. You must purge the evil from among you.

So now the real question is, is Jesus of God or not? If not then they are justified in wanting to kill him, if you believe in God.

Vs. 13 "But no one would say anything publicly about him for fear of the leaders". For good reason too, the Jewish leaders have stated that anyone who believes Jesus to be messiah will be put out of the sanctuary. JN 9: 20 "We know he is our son," the parents answered, "and we know he was born blind. 21 But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don't know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself." 22 His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. 23 That was why his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

John 12: 44 Then Jesus cried out, "Whoever believes in me does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me. 45 The one who looks at me is seeing the one who sent me. 46 I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.

John 16: "All this I have told you so that you will not fall away. 2 They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, the time is coming when anyone who kills you will think they are offering a service to God.

Vs. 14 half way through the feast Jesus begins teaching in the temple. Not hiding but also not looking for publicity.

Vs. 15 The Jews there were amazed and asked, "How did this man get such learning without having been taught?" That is not having studied under any of the great

rabbis. If a person had not studied under a learned rabbi his teaching was suspect, his teaching was just his own. We are still looking for credentials today and that's not bad. There is nothing wrong with a little peer review. Peer review is the evaluation of work by one or more people of similar competence to the producers of the work (peers). It constitutes a form of self-regulation by qualified members of a profession. Peer review methods are employed to maintain standards of quality, improve performance, and provide credibility.

One of the concerns back then as well as now is, are your peers truly peers- are they of like minds, are they pure in their motives of judging your work. If they are not open to your conclusion then all the evidence one may compile will not be judged fairly and accurately. Think of any of our social issues of this day, who are our peers on the issue of whether or not there is a God, sociologist? From there we approach the issue of abortion. Did God form a baby in the womb of her mother with intent and purpose? For all the pressing social issues of the day abortions poses the most clear and present danger to the most people. Worldwide 42M abortions occur annually. That's 115K every day.

The key question that must be answered to determine our view on abortion is whether or not that which is in the womb is merely a blob of cells or a person. If what is in the womb is not human then no justification is needed, if it is human no explanation is adequate.

Consider again with me the way the bible describes the relationship between God and the unborn baby in the womb. Psa. 139:13-16 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. 14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. 15 My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. 16 Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. 17 How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them! If what is still in the womb no more than a wart, an unwanted growth, then what difference does it make, but if human, that is the only mater that matters!

Amillia Taylor, she is the world's youngest premature baby ever to survive and the image of her tiny feet poking out between the fingers of a doctor's hand were used to support a call to lowering of the 24-week legal limit on abortion.

Amillia weighed less than 10oz and was just nine-and-a-half inches long, with skin which tore like rice paper. (Associated Press).

Here is a case where heroic effort payed off to save a child who came out of the womb at 20 weeks yet a doctor could go across the hall and terminate the life of one inside the womb several weeks further along.

The Bible describes a baby leaping for joy inside the womb in Lk. 1:39-44

As abortion is an affront to God's authority as Creator, and assault on God's work in creation, and an attack on God's relationship with the unborn, the taking of a baby's life is wrong. So, shouldn't we all agree that to take the life of a 33 year old innocent man would be as well. Those in our text wish to KILL-kill Jesus because they fail to recognize him as from God.

Vs. 16 "My teaching is not my own. (that would be arrogant) It comes from the one

who sent me. Jesus clearly acknowledged the learned ones of his age had gone so far off, in so many areas that even those who claimed to be seeking God, could not recognize him if he were standing in front of them. Jesus decisively had few peers. Jesus just went to his only peer.

Vs. 17 Those who truly seek God will know the truth. 1 John 5: 7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

Let me close this morning by reminding us that God is not only the Judge of sin, he is also the Savior of the Sinner. Not only will God forgive anyone who has had an abortion, anyone who has performed one, advised someone to get one and even those who have lobbied for or legislated it. And further, Jesus has requested of Father, that those who participated in any way in his unjust murder could be forgiven, as well, if only we will confess their sin, for he is faithful, and because he bore our sins in his innocent body on the cross, he is just in forgiving- if we will acknowledge that it was for our sin, that he had to die. The only question concerning whether or not JC death is justified or not, is he From GOD-God or not. John 10:33 "We are not stoning you for any good work," they replied, "but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God."

John 15:23-25 23 Whoever hates me hates my Father as well. 24 If I had not done among them the works no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. As it is, they have seen, and yet they have hated both me and my Father. 25 But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: 'They hated me without reason.

Can you say with me this morning, put my sin upon Jesus, let mine be among those which brought about his gruesome death and my glorious salvation, Daddy God.

Romans 8:15

The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, (Daddy) Father."